

Dakota County Herald

DAKOTA CITY, NEB.

John H. Ream, - Publisher

Have you quit trying to keep track of the land frauds?

A woman 60 years old is said to be cutting her fourth set of natural teeth. Shouldn't it be unnatural?

It is claimed that a bat has lived in a sealed vault for 100 years. It must have been of the brick variety.

Mr. Fielding has put lemons on the free list. The trade was suffering, and he came to the rescue—a case of lemon aid.

A man has been arrested for trying to throw his mother-in-law into the river. Evidently his idea was to drown his sorrow.

Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota thinks we are threatened with national nervous prostration. Pick your sanatorium early.

The way to worry a man is to say there is probably no truth in the charges against him and keep right on digging into them.

Prof. J. G. Adams' assertion that man is largely composed of pure soap is likely to strengthen the average hobo's aversion to water.

Those who believe in Spartan methods of "hardening" children might reflect that there is no hardness like that which marks the absence of life.

The name of a woman was drawn from the jury wheel in Washington, but she was promptly excused. Besides being of the wrong sex, she was quite intelligent.

Owing to the fact that King Leopold has bushy white whiskers it will be hard to ever convince the people of the Congo country that Santa Claus is a good man.

The opponents of free congressional seeds are making another strong fight. Can't make them believe that the prosperity of the country is grown from free seeds.

Now a Chicago man has offered Count Boni a job as chauffeur at \$25,000 a year. That ought to suit him down to the ground, since he is used to living a fast life.

Explorer Peary attributes his failure to reach the pole to the weather. Just as soon as they have a tropical season up there we look for Peary to put a cabbage leaf in his hat and push forward to victory.

To oblige a woman, 2,270 western business men signed a petition without reading it and have made themselves liable for a total sum of \$400,000. Cassie Chadwick will find plenty of them left when she gets out of the penitentiary.

There are still some persons who are not anxious to have an automobile. Two well-known residents of Madrid started from that city on a journey to Paris last month mounted on asses, in protest against the reckless speed of the automobile-drivers. Each ass was named after a noted auto-maker, and the riders carried banners inscribed, "Donkeys are better than automobiles."

There is a good deal of talk at times about British conservatism in business matters, but they are not half as backward in some matters as Americans, who plume themselves on their conservatism. From present appearances the agitation in England over the adoption of the metric system is likely to bear fruit much sooner in that country than in the United States. The old argument about the difficulty of adjusting accepted standards to the metric system is found to be less formidable than represented and many big firms have, as a matter of individual enterprise, prepared tables which will permit the prompt translation into metric terms of their products.

A large amount of pioneer work still invites the explorer, for many of the unknown areas have much territorial extent. In the Amazon basin, for example, three of these regions are each much larger than all of our New England States. One unknown area in Northwest Alaska is nearly as large as New England and the Sahara has two areas in black that are each twice as large and another three times as large as New England. Asia still has several of these vast mysterious spaces and the solid chunk of the unknown in New Guinea, the largest island in the world excepting Greenland, would swallow up New England and leave a black border all around it.

Not every wife can issue a bulletin to the press concerning the state of her husband's health and sign it "house physician and qualified nurse," as the Queen of Roumania has done. King Carol has been ill for a year, and in recent months has been in extreme pain. The queen, in her bulletin, signed "Dr. Carmen Sylva," says, "I jealously insist on sharing no part of his nursing with any one else, and I never had a better patient. It is a pity no one can glance at the peace of this sick-chamber." She has had previous experience as a nurse, for in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-8 she devoted herself to the care of the wounded soldiers. Although ordinary wives do not issue bulletins, they do nurse both husbands and children through many illnesses.

Gen. Shafter's death has resulted to the public memory little but criticism. The man's real achievements have been all but forgotten in the resentment over what seemed a needless loss of life in the Spanish war. It is true that Shafter exhibited an unfortunate lack of experience and skill in the protective side of warfare, but it may be questioned whether any other American commanding officer of that day would have done better in coping, unprepared,

with the real enemies, climate, bad food and fever, says Ridgway's weekly. And, in spite of all, in his sturdy, tactless, patient fashion he did what he was sent to do in Cuba. This habit of performing the allotted task was the keynote of Shafter's character in his many years of invariably successful and valuable Indian campaigning, during which the public never heard of him. It was his misfortune that his brilliant successes should have been accomplished in the obscure places of the earth; his errors committed in the blaze of the limelight. Whatever the public, fickle and often ungrateful, may think of him, his fellows in the service will remember him with honor as a brave, honest, sincere and generally efficient public servant.

The percentage of people in a large city who have any knowledge at first hand of government reports and bulletins is exceedingly small, but the government printing office turns the documents out in great number, and they contain much useful information. When the President spoke in his message of the help the Agricultural Department is to the farmers he might have referred to some of this literature, which covers a great range of subjects. Not only is agriculture proper discussed, but here is "Modern Conveniences for the Farm Home," which is significant both of a paternal interest in the farmer and of the changes for the better that are going on in farm life. First there is a disquisition on the water supply, with many sanitary suggestions, and hints as to mechanical devices for distributing the water through the house. Then there is a discussion of the location of the house and of cellar building, and an elaborate treatise on the question of plumbing, taking in laundry and sink arrangements, heating apparatus and hot water circulation, the bathroom, lavatory and closet, and giving careful instructions for the disposal of sewage. This is followed by directions for the disposal of ashes, garbage and miscellaneous refuse, and by a dissertation on heating systems, after which examples are given of homes where modern conveniences have been installed, and also hints on the possibility of introducing them into houses already built. Such a bulletin must have some influence in spreading the desire for home comforts, and though many farmers may still lag behind, the installation of the conveniences has really gone on rapidly. There are farm houses, genuine farm houses, built and equipped out of farm money, as well supplied with them as the best city residences. They would astonish those who after years of desertion remember only the discomforts of farm life, and what with such improvements and the trolley and the telephone the movement "back to the soil" may gather considerable impetus.

Who that knows the best there is in American literature has not felt himself, as he followed Longfellow over the trails of Hiawatha into the land of the Ojibwas, stand beside that purling stream.

Where the falls of Minnehaha
Flash and gleam among the oak trees,
Laugh and leap into the valley?

The poet's picture is so realistic that the Indian hunter and his maiden have become the companions of our idle moments when we seek refreshment at the fountain of thought. The Indian legend has taken form and substance and Hiawatha and Minnehaha have become as real to us as actual characters in American history. And when we know the truth we marvel that the genius of

man could have evolved from a mere study of a photograph of Minnehaha Falls, and from a reflection upon the legend of the Ojibwas, the beautiful epic which adorns the works of Longfellow. It was a picture of the falls which inspired the poet; he never saw them. And he has made thousands of Americans quite as familiar with the scene as though they had beheld it.

As one sees the Minnehaha,
Gleaming, gleaming through the branches,
As one hears the Laughing Waters
From behind the screen of branches.

Therefore the fate which threatens Minnehaha Falls is a source of sorrow to multitudes who have never beheld their delicate beauty. Word comes from Minneapolis that unless something is done at once the ledge of limestone over which the waters of Minnehaha River tumble will crash down into the rapids and the falls will become a whirlpool.

The Minnehaha is not a pretentious river. It flows through the flower-sprinkled meadows of Hennepin County, Minn., a purring, gamboling thread of silver. Here the linnet shakes its throat and the feet of the dove are bathed. Weary of the sunshine it finally spreads itself over a ledge and like a veil of gossamer drops into the cool shades of a ravine. The fall is 90 feet. It is not the volume, but the fairy-like beauty of Minnehaha which gives it its charm. It is like a sheet of gauze, so thin that the wall behind loses little of its distinctness and the rocks upon which the water breaks are merely refreshed. A lace curtain is not more delicate, nor thistledown more dainty. The rock behind the fall is soft and it has become so eroded that you can walk beneath the ledge which hangs above and over which the water flows before making the leap. The recess is about four feet deep, but in some places it is fifteen feet deep. Into this you can walk and look outward through the transparent sheet.

It is this erosion which threatens the falls. The overhanging ledge has been growing thinner and thinner year after year, until now engineers say it cannot stand up much longer under its own weight and the weight of the tumbling waters. It is proposed to erect a retaining wall, but at best this will be a botched job and the artificiality will show. Unless it is done, however, the upper ledge will crash shortly and the water, instead of making a sheer leap of sixty feet, will tumble in a series of cascades and rapids, with all the picturesqueness and poetic glamour of the place gone.

Another specimen of the singular African animal known as the shy okapi has recently been obtained by Major Powell-Cotton. It was killed in the Ituri forest by a native hunter. So far as Major Powell-Cotton has been able to learn, only one European had previously seen a living okapi. The Mambutti natives (pygmies) say that the okapi is solitary in its habits—that even the two members of a pair invariably feed apart, although when they have a calf they frequent the same region of the forest. The female keeps her calf concealed in covert, but visits it at intervals to feed it. The natives usually see the animals in rainy weather, when they sometimes seek shelter under an abandoned roof.

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WILL MINNEHAHA GO?

SAD FATE THREATENS FALLS OF LAUGHING WATER.

Erosion of the Underlying Rock May Destroy the Beauty of the Spot Made Famous by the Poem of Longfellow.

Blessed though this country is with spots where nature has exerted an influence soothing to the wearied soul, and passing of even one of these must arouse regret in all save the most iconoclasts. This is especially true if the vanishing spot has a peculiar individuality and is associated with some feature of our history or literature around which there cluster sentiments patriotic or poetic.

It matters little what be the cause of the decay, though where the greed of man is responsible our anger as well as our sorrow is stirred. When we see the power grabbers rob Niagara of its charm or invade the solitude of the Adirondacks to enrich themselves by utilizing that which God gave as a boon to man and as a revelation of His omnipotence, resentment is strong and the natural impulse is to cry "Stop, thief!" When nature herself becomes weak, when her charms fall like the withering rose or the bloom of a maiden's cheek, we must accept our loss with resignation, but we cannot stifle the pain.

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CREWS ON LAKE STEAMERS.

Compared with Those on the Atlantic and Pacific Coast.

Speaking of the recent storm on the great lakes, the Columbia Dispatch complains of carelessness in the making up of crews for lake vessels and thinks that the men who must be depended upon in such crises are as frequently

caused by storms "lack the necessary experience and discipline," that they are landmen rather than sailors and become "ineffective" as soon as a storm threatens a steamer. The paper says, further, that "the nearer the conditions of navigation on the lakes are brought to the sterner conditions in vogue on the ocean the less will be the risk and the fewer the disasters."

It is perfectly true that the old-time sailors largely disappeared from the lakes, simply because the old-time sailing vessel has vanished, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The same is true, perhaps to a slightly less extent, of the ocean, where sailing ships are still encountered. On both lakes and ocean the crews that man the steamers are no longer sailors in the old sense of the word, but are, rather, mechanics and deck hands; and this is true of the navy. In fact the old-time sailor is not needed on the modern steamer. Nor is this a source either of regret or of danger. As between the present crews on lakes and ocean, there is a general agreement that the former are the better. If only for the reason that their conditions of service, as respects pay, food and general treatment, are better. If the lake crews are not as good as inland critics could desire, it remains the fact that there are none better in the land.

As to the sterner conditions of navigation on the ocean, it may be remarked not only that the great lakes are the stormiest bodies of water in America, but also that they are more dangerous than the ocean by reason of their narrow and shallow connecting channels; while the advantage of many ports of refuge is frequently offset by their difficult approaches. There remains, too, the ever-present and unavoidable danger, in a storm on the lakes, arising from lack of sea room; for no craft can run before a storm without speedily going ashore. These and other conditions serve to breed generations of lake sailors surpassed in skill, courage and resourcefulness by none, and the men of to-day in the steamships, if not sailors in the same sense, have lived up to the old traditions and proved their possession of the same qualities. To recall a case on the great lakes where a ship has been sacrificed by the cowardice of her crew requires either a prodigious memory or a riotous imagination. If by conditions of navigation is

meant the enforcement of the navigation laws relating to life-saving devices and the like, it is pertinent to say that investigation along the lakes following the Slocum horror in New York harbor showed that the lake steamers, if not complying in all respects with the letter of the law, were at least better equipped than those in and around New York.

New Trick in Fur Selling.
Two men, about 28 and 28 years old respectively, affecting an English accent and the dress of petty officers, visited Abraham Greenberg, a lawyer, who has an office in the Pulitzer building. They were accompanied by a negro who carried a large sailor's grip.

The men represented themselves as having just returned from a trip through the Baltic provinces of Russia. "I've got some fine furs I would like to sell to you," said the spokesman. "I've a lot of bargains, too." Then, looking around the room, he added in a whisper: "I brought the stuff myself to this country—do you understand?" The lawyer said he was not interested in furs, but the man persisted. He displayed a handsome bearskin rug, which he said he would sell for \$75, but Greenberg didn't care to purchase any furs, but the rug impressed him so much that he finally offered \$85 for it. This was refused, but the man produced a fine silver blue fox muff and collar.

"I'll let you have this for \$500," said the man. Greenberg bargained with him and eventually bought the set for \$20. He thought he had a prize. Just as he was about to hand the money to the stranger he found that the muff was damaged. The man readily agreed to exchange it and took what looked like a similar muff from the grip. This looked all right and was accepted.

When the lawyer examined the muff and collar more carefully, however, on rubbing his hand gently over the fur it began to fall out. Greenberg took the garments to an expert and learned that they were made of hair dyed and pasted crudely on a foundation. The value of the garments was about \$150.

Since then the lawyer has heard from other victims of the pair. Their game, which is a new one, is being worked successfully in many parts of the city.—New York Times.

Old Times.
Two friends who had not seen each other in ten years met, and sat down to talk over old times. "And what has become of that Vixen Luisa?" asked the one who had been away. "She found a fool to marry her." "Not really! And who was it, some one I know?" "Yes, the fool was myself."—Translated for Transatlantic Tales from El Diario de la Marina.

THE PEOPLE

NECESSITY AN ELEMENT OF SUCCESS.

By James J. Hill.



J. J. HILL.

The time for a man to retire from active business depends on conditions. Some men are young at 70, others are old at 50. The method of living, the occupation, habits, successes or failures all have their influences.

There is one thing that young men feel is a burden and hardship, and I want to tell them they are wrong. The spur of necessity of which many complain is a rich heritage and one that most young men miss who fall in the race. The spur of necessity of doing what you have to do and doing it well, because you feel you must do it well or fail and be written down a failure, is really of more value to a man who has to meet the conditions that present themselves in all varied business affairs than anything else I know of. A man must make up his mind, if he is going to succeed, that if he takes the other man's dollar he must give back to him an honest return.

There is no better field for young men than in railroad-ing. Begin at the bottom, show that you are familiar with your work, and keep plugging away at your special line of work, and the reward will come. Railroad-ing is not like politics; the competent man wins. It is necessary that he should, for railroad men are dropping out of harness every day. Those who stick to their work and show capability are necessarily elevated. The office boy of to-day may become president in a decade if he be made of the right stuff and makes his services indispensable.

CONCENTRATION OF GREAT WEALTH.

By William Sulzer, M. C.



W. S. SULLIVAN.

The total population of the United States is about 80,000,000. The total aggregate wealth is about \$65,000,000,000, and it appears that out of that population less than 25,000 persons own more than one-half the aggregate wealth of the land. And this has all been brought about in the last twenty-five years by combinations and conspiracies called trusts fostered by special legislation and nurtured by political favoritism. If these conditions obtain in the next century, I predict that less than 5,000 persons will control more than three-quarters of the wealth of this country.

To-day about 200 trusts control wholly or in part every conceivable product and industry of the country. These gigantic corporations control the supply, monopolize the product and dictate the price of nearly every necessary of life. They force out of employment every year thousands and thousands of honest toilers and limit prod-

uce the gun power of the new battleships and cruisers of the Dreadnought size now building is shown vividly in the diagram. These ships will have broadsides of eight to twelve inch guns. If one could imagine chains attached to the projectiles, the force developed by a broadside of eight guns would be sufficient to raise a ship of 17,000 tons twenty feet in the air. From this the blow which they are capable of dealing to a hostile ship can be understood, and also the shock and concussion caused in the ship which fires them. Only the stoutest construction will stand such a shock. On board a fine ship when a heavy gun is fired the sensation is like that of a train suddenly shunted, provided the observer is well away from the line of the blast of the guns. Anywhere near the blast or in the line of it there may be great danger. There are instances on record in war of men having been killed by the mere rush of the air accompanying the discharge of a heavy gun and the passage of a weighty projectile near them. At the battle of the Yalu several officers on board one of the Chinese ships were thrown down and bruised and injured by the unexpected discharge of a heavy gun near at hand. Over and above the shock, there is the terrible noise, which is deafening and overpowering. Eardrums are apt to be split, and bleeding from the mouth and nose caused when the guns are firing rapidly.

In the Dreadnought a broadside of eight big twelve inch guns was fired during the ship's trials. The shock to the ship, but the concussion did not do the gun crews any serious injury. Continued heavy firing, however, such as will take place in battle, will impose a far severer strain upon the human nerves and physical organization.

A LITTLE LESSON IN PATRIOTISM.

It was in the midst of the attack upon Fort Sumter that the flag fell to the ground, its staff shattered, its folds blazing with fire. As it fell, Sergeant Peter Hart sprang forward to catch it. Seizing the burning bunting, he succeeded in extinguishing the blaze. While shot and shell burst around him he snatched a hammer and rushed up the flagstaff to the center of the attack. With the speed and agility of a wildcat, he ran up the pole waving the flag of the Union defiantly. With the gun of the enemy directed upon him, he nailed the flag to the top. It was the first deed of heroism in the Civil War. The next day the country rang with the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter and the heroism of Peter Hart. There were thousands in the conflict that followed who risked their lives just as he had done. But who shall say that it was not in many cases the result of his example?

The first man who ventures to do a deed of notable bravery in a struggle lacks the incentive of precedent. His headlong, reckless daring may be counted as naught by the developments of the succeeding day. But there were many who realized the symbolism of Hart's act. The knowledge that men were ready

to risk their lives in order that they might raise their flag from the dust inspired them to follow the example of the man who nailed up the flag at Fort Sumter.

THE DEER FLY.

A peculiar looking fly, with a long, thin body and black dotted wings, buzzed on one of the windows of a Northwestern elevated car the other day. No body noticed it until a man, who got on at Chicago avenue, suddenly left his seat, went across to the window, and scooped up the fly in his hand. He examined it closely for a minute, then he explained to a man sitting near that the insect was a species of deer fly rarely found outside of the Wisconsin woods. A deer fly on an elevated train in Chicago was a novelty, said the naturalist, who explained his knowledge by saying that he was once in the department of natural history at Cornell—Chicago Inter Ocean.

There is no question but what the farmers are up against it without much chance of relief. One poor devil over in Barber County last week lost two thoroughbred Hereford steers and one fine milk cow from overeating and the same week lost four valuable thoroughbred Poland China brood sows, caused by the bursting of a granary, the grain from which smothered the animals. Something has got to be done.—Harper (Kan.) Sentinel.

Obsolete Warships Bring Little.
Some thirty obsolete British warships have been sold at Portsmouth for just over \$400,000—less than the cost of the smallest of them. The prices were regarded as good.

QUALITIES OF THE JAPANESE.

By Prof. Charles W. Elliot.



C. W. ELLIOTT.

What shall we say of the yellow race? All we want to know about a race is, Can we live with it? A minister who had long lived in China replied that that nation had produced a high civilization when the ancestors of every man in the room were living in fur clothing in the wilderness. We have had an excellent opportunity to see what the Japanese are like, and I wonder if there is any one who will venture to assert that they are inferior to us mentally, physically or morally.

MANY USES FOR SAWDUST.

No Longer a Waste Product that Is Green or Yellow.

Many are the uses of sawdust. In the days when the sawdust wagon made its lumbering rounds through the streets of most large cities two commercial uses of sawdust were to sprinkle floors and to shelter lead pipes from cold and glass bottles from breakage.

Near every sawmill was a vat for the sawdust, and it was carried away free by anyone who had any use for it. In this era of the use of byproducts sawdust has a commercial value. It is no longer given away, but is sold. One of the recent uses of sawdust is its distillation, resulting in acetic acid, wood naphtha, wood alcohol and tar. Sawdust may also be burned in special furnaces or mixed with other material for fuel.

Sawdust when saturated with chemicals can be effectively used in the manufacture of explosives, but it is more particularly in demand in paper-making than for any other purpose. Such a thing as sawdust on the floor of a room as a substitute for a rug or carpet is now practically unknown. Sawdust has joined sand in this respect. Cotton felt has been substituted for sawdust as a non-conductor of cold in winter. Gas can be made from sawdust. It is also used for briquettes, i. e., blocks of compressed sawdust and wood chips burned for fuel. Even in the protection of glassware against breakage sawdust has been superseded by excelsior, sawdust being regarded as too valuable for such use.

Swiss and Irish Cows.

It shows what can be accomplished by organized and well directed investigation that the British Goat Society has made discovery of a particular species yielding over a full gallon of milk per diem for many months in succession, says the London Globe. This remarkable animal—it is of Swiss lineage—has been personally and exhaustively tested by the honorary secretary at a farm in Essex, who had previously disbelieved in such a yield from any species at home or abroad. That controversy being ended by his experiments, the society will, no doubt, add to the value of its previous efforts on behalf of the rural laborer's children by promoting importations of this profitable breed.

Among its supporters there are some men of large wealth and many acres who have afforded repeated evidence of their desire to give the goat a higher position in English estimation as an economical food producer. But the English farm hand requires a deal of talk before he is convinced that in many details of human life new ways are better than old. This perversion of conservatism has broken down, odd to say, in the sister isle; the Irish goat, well tended and carefully bred as it usually is, ranks far higher than the English as a milk producer, and the society had little difficulty in securing the co-operation of the peasantry in further improvements.

Shifting the Burden.

"Doesn't your conscience sometimes trouble you about things you have to do in financial deals?" "A little," answered Mr. Dustin Star. "What do you do in such a case?" "I send for a lawyer."—Washington Star.

Popularized Billiards.

Billiards were brought into fashion by Louis XIV. of France in the seventeenth century, because his doctor ordered him to take exercise after his meals.

A man is never too busy to listen when the lady on the dollar talks.